

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 13-20, 31-46, and 48-57 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, claims 1-11, 13-19, 31, 32, 35-44, and 48-51 are amended, and claims 52-57 are added to recite additional features disclosed in the specification, for clarity, and/or to re-phrase the subject matter recited in the claims.

In particular, claims 1 and 14 are amended to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, Figs. 1, 2a, 2b, 3 and 4 and paragraphs [0106] and [0107].

Independent claims 9, 36, 41-43 and 48 are amended into dependent claims. Claim 1 remains independent. Claim 14 is amended into an independent claim.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6, 8-11, 13-20, and 31-51 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 2000-323276 by Seki et al. ("Seki") in view of JP 06-306181 by Hiraga et al. ("Hiraga") further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,898,443 to Yoshino et al. ("Yoshino") and the admitted state of the art ("ASA"); rejects claims 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Seki in view of Hiraga, Yoshino and ASA further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,296,354 to Hashimoto ("Hashimoto"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended to recite additional features, as outlined above. In particular, claim 1, as amended, recites "forming a second film of the plurality of films that is formed in a second area of the base and that is separated from the first film," "the base being provided in a first chamber during the first period," and "the base being provided in the first chamber during the second period." Claim 14 is amended to recite similar features. Seki, Hiraga, ASA and Hashimoto do not disclose or suggest these features, as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claim 14.

In particular, Seki and Yoshino only disclose forming films at different locations. However, Seki and Yoshino do not disclose or suggest the use of a chamber. In particular, Seki

and Yoshino fail to disclose that a base on which the plurality of films are formed is provided in a chamber.

Hiraga discloses a manipulator 15 to perform fine-adjusting. See paragraph [0026].

Hiraga discloses a control nozzle section 1 that sprays a solution into a vacuum housing 3. Such a spraying is an important feature of Hiraga. See paragraph [0026]. Because of this spraying feature, Hiraga cannot form a second film that is separate from a first film, because the spray would indiscriminately discharge a liquid at all locations.

In view of the above, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine Hiraga with Seki and Yoshino, because Hiraga's indiscriminating spray would defeat the operation of Seki and Yoshino, in which different films are supposed to be formed at different locations.

Furthermore, even if combined, Seki, Yoshino and Hiraga would not result in a second film that is separate from the first film, because Hiraga's indiscriminating spray would form only one film at all locations.

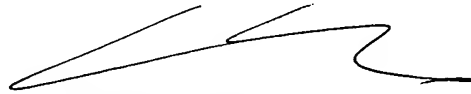
In view of the above, Seki, Yoshino and Hiraga do not render obvious the subject matter recited in claim 1. Also, ASA and Hashimoto do not remedy the subject matter lacking in Seki, Yoshino and Hiraga. Therefore, the applied references, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1 and 14, and claims 2-11, 13, 15-20, 31-46 and 48-51 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-11, 13-20, 31-46 and 48-51 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claims 52-57 are patentable at least in view of the patentability of claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

Date: March 29, 2007

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